



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Women's Studies

Department of Women's Studies, College of Arts & Sciences

Program of Study

The field of Women's Studies examines the contributions of women to human societies as well as the impact of culture and society on women. Many of the courses in the program are interdisciplinary. Three colleges and ten departments offer courses that are cross-listed with Women's Studies. The discipline focuses on the issues, trends, historical conditions, and multicultural experiences of women, with a particular emphasis on understanding patterns of sexism, racism, social class, and other systems of oppression. Courses in the humanities, social sciences, and applied sciences are included in the curriculum.

The department offers a major and a minor in Women's Studies. Many students also choose Women's Studies as a second major to complement another field of study.

Faculty

Faculty members in the Department of Women's Studies hold doctoral degrees from Purdue University, Temple University, City University of New York, and Vanderbilt University. In addition, 26 affiliated faculty in departments that cross-list courses with Women's Studies have earned degrees from universities all over the world. All of the faculty that teach Women's Studies courses are dedicated to expanding students' knowledge about women and other traditionally underrepresented groups, and they teach courses that encourage active learning. The faculty who teach Women's Studies courses are also active scholars who publish books, articles, and make scholarly presentations at professional conferences.

Honors in Women's Studies

To be eligible for the Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 OR have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15% of their graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. Transfer students with at least 12 semester hours and up to 59 semester hours of undergraduate courses are admitted with a grade point average of at least 3.3 OR 3.4 for 60 semester hours or more. To find out more, visit wiu.edu/Honors.

General honors seminars in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences provide students with an opportunity to explore topics in courses that are structured specifically for honors students. Women's Studies students who enroll in the honors program take Women's Studies courses for honors credit and complete an honors thesis during their senior year. A faculty member in the department directs the thesis project and works directly with the student.

Student Activities

For students interested in feminist activism on campus, the department encourages its students to become involved in the Feminist Action Alliance (FAA), a student organization offered by the WIU Women's Center. FAA meets weekly to discuss women's issues and to organize campus and community events such as Take Back the Night and the Clothesline Project. Students with a GPA of at least a 3.0 can also join Triota, the Women's Studies Honor Society. In addition, Women's Studies students have been very active in presenting research projects at the annual Undergraduate Research Day each spring.

HIGHER VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

After College

Women's Studies majors have found their degrees to be very marketable. Students are prepared for many occupations as well as graduate study in many fields. Most graduates pursue careers in social services, industries, communications fields, advertising, journalism, and nonprofit agencies. Recent graduates have entered the following fields: parks and tourism, investment banking, government, social services, law school, medical school, and graduate study in Women's Studies. The major is one that prepares students for any field in which critical thinking skills and knowledge of traditionally underrepresented groups are important.

Leslie F. Malpass Library

The library and its five branches house more than one million cataloged volumes, 3,300 current journal subscriptions, and 25 foreign and domestic newspapers. In addition, the library provides computer access to resources worldwide, including 800 other Illinois libraries with more than 22 million volumes. When necessary, the interlibrary loan program can have materials in students' hands within a day or two.

Higher Values in Higher Education

Located in Macomb (population 20,000), with a campus in the Quad Cities (Moline, IL), Western Illinois University offers a caring and supportive learning environment to more than 13,000 students in west-central Illinois. Western students have all the advantages of a large public university—strong faculty, state-of-the-art technology and facilities, and a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities—in an atmosphere free from distractions. Western Illinois University is a member of the NCAA and competes at the Division I level, sponsoring 20 intercollegiate sports in a broad-based athletics department. Western's presence in the Quad Cities spans more than 40 years, and that campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 1,500 students. The core values that are at the heart of the University are academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth, and social responsibility.

Western's GradTrac and Cost programs guarantee that students can achieve their degrees within four years while paying a fixed rate for tuition, room, and board.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, and veteran status.

Campus Visits

The Admissions Reception Center (Sherman Hall 115) is open most weekdays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM when the University is in session. Group information sessions are available at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, and campus tours are conducted at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM daily. Individual appointments with an admissions counselor, advisers/faculty, or a financial aid adviser may be arranged during the week. The Admissions Reception Center is open from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM most Saturdays when the University is in session. A group information session is available at 10:00 AM, and a campus tour is conducted at 11:00 AM. An individual appointment with an admissions counselor may be arranged. You may schedule your visit or tour online at admissions.wiu.edu by selecting "Visit Campus." You may also schedule a visit, tour, or individual appointment by calling toll free (877) PICKWIU [742-5948] or (309) 298-3157, or by e-mailing admissions@wiu.edu.



wiu.edu/users/miwsp

Department of Women's Studies

Morgan Hall 203 • Western Illinois University
1 University Circle • Macomb, IL 61455-1390
Phone: (309) 298-2214



WESTERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY